

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

**Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 3 as follows:**

This is a Continuation Application of copending U.S. Patent application having Serial No. 09/872,881 filed on June 1, 2001, now abandoned, which is a continuation application of PCT Application No. PCT/JP00/06919, filed October 4, 2000, which was not published under PCT Article 21(2) in English.

**Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 1 as follows:**

FIG. 9 shows probes A and B, target sequence, detection sequence and a modified sequence (SEQ ID NOs: 1-5 respectively);

**Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 13 as follows:**

FIG 13A shows two probes A and B, and a target sequence used in the evaluation test of Example 5 of the present invention (SEQ ID NOs: 6-16 respectively);